

**CAMP BARRETT
INSPECTION REPORT
2009**

Facility Name: CAMP BARRETT

Inspection Date: 12/03/2009

Last Inspection Date: 2/18/2008

Superintendent: James A. Seal

Address: 21077 Lyons Valley Road
Alpine, CA 9190

Telephone Number: (619) 401-4900

Fax: (619) 401-4921

Type of Facility: Juvenile Camp

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge:
Honorable Susan Huguenor

Staff Interviewed:

James Seal, Superintendent
Evette Davis, Principal
Ruben Delacruz, Teacher
Pynne Loper, Clinic
Vicki Bentner, Clinic
Denise Fitz, Nurse
Art Ortiguerra, Kitchen Supv.
Lori Crockett, Maintenance

Facility Capacity: 156

Population on inspection date: 150

Average population: 150

***New cap for 2010:** 135

Commission Inspection Team:

Kriste Draper
Andrew Haden

Juvenile Justice Commission Chair:

Jessica St. Clair

Recommendations

1. The Probation Department should explore whether there might be volunteer-based organizations that would be well-positioned to provide occasional transportation to parents with wards at Camp Barrett who do not have access to transportation. The Juvenile Justice Commission is also researching this possibility.
2. School counselor to assist wards in transitioning from school at Camp Barrett to school in the community.
3. Better salary for teacher's aides to incentivise people to work at Camp Barrett.
4. More vocational training programs.

Comments

The facility was immaculate. Teachers, probation officers and staff all seemed to genuinely love their job and the youth that they were working with. All staff seemed very excited about the opportunity Camp Barrett presented for rehabilitation and to really spend time working with these young men.

Since the last Inspection

Number of Suicides: 0

Number of Attempted Suicides: 1 (5/30/09)

Number of Deaths from other causes: 0

Number of Escapes: 1 (10/22/09)

Number of attempted escapes: 0

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Date of Last Fire Drill: February 10, 2010

Local Inspections:

Grand jury
Corrections and Standards Authority (CSA)
Waste Water Management
Building Inspection (Supervisor of Maintenance)
Fire Inspection (Fire Marshall)
Presiding Judge

Training, Personnel, and Management

Camp Barrett is staffed with 62 officers, with 31 officers on at a time. The camp runs two 12-hour shifts from 6:00 to 6:00, with three officers working 11 AM-11 PM to add extra staff during the times the wards are awake and out of school. Each probation officer carries a caseload of wards that they meet and work with individually.

*** At the exit interview, the inspection team was informed that 9 staff members were cut on February 12, 2010. Director Jim Seal was still designing his response to the personnel loss, but indicated that it was going to significantly impact his ability to manage vacation/sick leave for the remaining staff.

Juvenile Facility Capacity and Crowding

The population hovers consistently at 150 wards at the Camp. There is a constant waiting list for the camp so any time a ward leaves the camp for discipline, program completion or otherwise, a new minor is sent to fill his spot. The population is generally made of older boys (16½ - 21) who have committed serious crimes (felonies). At times, Camp Barrett will take a 16 year old, but generally boys ages 12-16½ go to the Juvenile Ranch Facility or another program through Breaking Cycles. The average length of stay for a ward is about four months.

Classification and Segregation

Classification: Wards who are known to be affiliated with a gang are identified upon arriving at Barrett and efforts are made to split up gang members placing them in separate dorms. Staff are also mindful of placing rival gang members in the same dorms and are very conscious of where wards are placed when they arrive. Ward can also be moved to a different dorm if the current dorm situation proves to be unsafe.

Orientation: Wards receive orientation when they arrive at Camp Barrett.

Use of Physical Restraint: Staff receive training and do use physical restraints when appropriate.

Searches: Pat down searches are conducted when wards are leaving and/or returning to camp. Pat down searches are also conducted when kitchen workers leave the kitchen. Random pat downs also occur when wards return from school. There are monthly general searches in the dorm, kitchen, and of the wards' lockers. The Camp refrains from conducting strip searches and only conducts them with

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supervisory approval under circumstances that would warrant a more thorough search. Every search is logged.

Programs and Activities

Schooling: Camp Barrett has its own high school and GED program. All youth at Camp Barrett must attend school. The boys who have already graduated from high school are assigned to work full time around the camp.

School runs five days a week with 12 teachers overseeing the boys' studies. Students rotate classrooms and schedules, and have the option of taking different electives. Teachers work very hard to provide appropriate education for all grade levels (grades 9-12). In one of the classrooms the inspection team observed, students were taking a test being administered orally by their teacher. The boys were thoughtful and quick to raise their hands to have the teacher repeat test questions. In the math classroom, students were actively engaged in a geometry lesson. The difficulties some students were having with the lesson demonstrated the vast spectrum of educational level that is present in each class. One teacher explained how difficult it can be to teach ten boys when one might be at the A.P. Calculus level while the boy next to him is testing at the 4th grade level. The GED Prep classroom was full of students, each in front of their own individual computer screen working on various subject matters. Students work on computers at their own pace preparing for the GED exam. Their teacher monitors their progress, answers questions and gives lessons. New at Camp Barrett are laptops in the dorms where the boys can continue preparing for their GED exam. Another new school program is the addition of Rosetta Stone for ESL students. Since the inception of this program, Camp Barrett has experienced a 46% increase in the number of ESL students passing the California Exit Exam.

Barrett High School has 10 Teachers and 2 Special Education teachers on staff. Staff estimated that about one third of the boys at the camp qualify for special education. The only staffing the school lacks is Teachers Aides as the Camp cannot find anyone who wants to make the daily commute out to Barrett for the level of pay given to Teacher's Aides.

Regional Occupations Programs (ROP's): Camp Barrett runs four ROPs. Each dorm is assigned to one ROP program (one dorm has two ROP programs) with all wards in that dorm participating in that ROP program. The boys may apply to transfer dorms and participate in another ROP program if they wish.

Fire Academy: Teaches wild fires and fire fighting techniques. Youth may receive certificates for their course completion that enables them to apply for fire fighting jobs.

Building/Ground Maintenance: Teaches landscaping skills to get youth ready for the landscaping industry.

Culinary Arts: Prepares youth for jobs in the food industry. Upon completion of the course, boys can take their ServSafe Certification test or their Food Handlers certification which will help them get jobs in the food and service industry.

Horticulture: This is a new program at Camp Barrett where wards will learn how to grow their own produce and other farming techniques. They will be allowed to prepare and eat the food that they grow.

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In the last year, the horticulture program has gotten off the ground and boys in this program grew food that they cooked and ate over the summer.

After School Programming: Camp Barrett runs several after-school programs for the boys. Seven days a week there is something going on that the wards can be involved in.

Programs:

1. Catholic Church Services – Youth may practice any religion they choose and accommodations will be made to allow for such practice. (For example: a ward requested to fast for Ramadan and the cooking staff prepared special meals to fit his fasting needs.)
2. Catholic Counseling Services
3. AA/NA Meetings
4. Christian Church Services
5. Drama – This program has become very popular with students performing a variety of IMPROV and other skits.
6. Substance Abuse – All wards at Camp Barrett must attend a substance abuse education class. At the end of that class, the instructor determines whether or not a boy needs more in-depth drug and alcohol treatment. If so, the youth takes another class with others who need more treatment.
7. Conflict Managers – This is a program for nine wards at a time which teaches them conflict management skills. The boys are then empowered to work with their peers helping to de-escalate conflicts within the camp. The inspection team spoke with one of the youth conflict managers about his role who reported that he liked being a conflict manager. He said that the program is open to all boys at camp, even those who were once the ones causing the trouble as they often make the best conflict managers. He said that he liked his role because he could talk with his peers and help sort out problems and get things calmed down before the entire camp would have to go on lock down. The probation officer on duty also agreed with the conflict manager stating that, often the wards would not listen to the officers but would listen to their peers.
8. Teen Relationship Violence – All wards at Camp Barrett must attend this program. If, at the end of the program, the instructor feels a ward may benefit from further relationship counseling, there is smaller group instruction that is provided.
9. Work Readiness Program – This is an eight-week program where wards learn job and interview skills, how to write résumés, and look for a job. The instructor works with the wards two days a week and then is available out in the community the other three days a week for boys that have left Camp Barrett and are looking for jobs, housing, schooling and other resource support. This program has been incredibly successful and holds huge value in helping the young men transition out of Camp Barrett and back into main stream society.

Two new programs this year is the return of a parenting program, with the addition of an advanced parenting program. These programs are vital to those wards that have children in the community and want to be good parents when they return to their families. The camp has also added a gang awareness program which has had great success in having youth from all different gangs meet and share about their experiences. Under a new contract with SAY San Diego, ART Training (Anger Replacement Training) classes have increased, allowing more wards to take advantage of the program. Another new addition this coming year is First Aid/CPR certification to those boys in the Fire Science ROP program.

Recreation: All wards receive recreation time. One dorm has its own basketball court and phone set up behind the dorm. The other two dorms share the larger court, and phones are provided near the office

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for phone calls. The wards also have an indoor rec room that was just re-floored; it has a large screen TV and a games table. The much revered weight training equipment is outside. The boys take special care to maintain this equipment as they know it will not be replaced. Probation staff also work closely with the community to take wards on outings. For example, later this month they will be attending a dance show put on by UCSD.

Correspondence: There are two 'banks' of pay phones the wards can use to call home (main/one behind Alpha dorm). There is no money allowed at the camp so all calls must be made collect. Boys are also allowed to write letters that will be mailed at no cost to them. They may also receive outside mail, but no packages except approved magazine subscriptions. Any correspondence with gang or other criminal content is strictly forbidden.

Visiting: Visiting occurs once a week on Sunday. There is a nice picnic area set up directly outside the camp fence for these visits. Approximately 40-50 boys receive visitors each week. The largest barrier to parent visitation is Camp Barrett's location for at least two reasons. First, as mentioned above, the camp is a significant distance from San Diego and so the lack of provided transportation to and from the camp is a hardship. Additionally, Camp Barrett is a rural location between the I-8 and I-94. Both of these freeways in the surrounding area are subject to spontaneous and random Border Patrol stops. Because many family members of the wards are not in the U.S. legally, they avoid visiting in fear of arrest or deportation.

Discipline

There are no weapons at Camp Barrett. The minimum staff-to-ward ratio maintained at Camp during the day is 1:15 and 1:30 ratio at night. If a ward needs discipline for acting out, fighting, etc. there are levels of punishment that are followed. The ward may wear an orange vest for the day identifying him as being in trouble. Staff can also removed a youth's free time or make the youth eat by himself. Wards may also be asked to write a letter of apology or an essay. If poor behavior persists, Camp Barrett staff may hold an administrative hearing and remove a youth's good time (this is time off of the original length of the sentence for good behavior...generally one third of their overall time). Staff also has the option of sending a ward back to juvenile hall and charging him with a probation violation if he fails to complete his court-ordered requirements. Staff may also have the boy returned to juvenile hall and file new charges if he commits a new crime while at Camp Barrett. For example, a ward destroyed one of the brand new windows in the Camp Barrett office; the youth was brought to juvenile hall and charged with destruction of property.

There is a very clear grievance policy within Camp Barrett where wards may submit a claim that they have been treated unfairly by the staff. Each dormitory has a 'grievance' box and sheets of paper for the boys to fill out the complaint. The only thing the boys are not allowed to file grievances for are rule violations. The complaint is then sent to the specific probation officer the claim is against. (For example: a ward misses his free time.) The youth and the probation officer then meet to try and resolve the issue. If the youth and officer cannot resolve the issue, a third party officer is brought in to try and find a solution. If still not resolved, the issue is brought up to a supervisor, and finally the director of Camp Barrett. Such instances in the past have resulted in staff-wide training to address the matter.

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Health Services: General Discussion

Camp Barrett is staffed by a nurse seven days a week from 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM. The nurse hands out medicine, draws blood, does physicals, keeps immunization records, and handles all day-to-day health issues that wards may have. The nurse has 24-hr access to the doctor on call for Juvenile Hall, and a doctor does come out to Camp Barrett once a week. The nurse maintains all wards' medical records and this information is kept secure and confidential at all times. One of the nurse's major roles is to handout pills to the wards four times a day. A strict protocol is followed to ensure that each boy receives and swallows his medication and does not 'cheek' the medication and save it for later or for trade. The nurse estimated that 20-25% of the Barrett population is on psychiatric medication. Outside of psychotropic medication, acne medication and antibiotics are also commonly given to the boys. The nurse conducts sick call once a day, with the boys writing any medical concerns they may have on paper and placing them in a locked box that only the nurse has access to.

In case of an emergency, the California fire fighters are first to respond, along with an ambulance from Alpine, which usually takes about 20 minutes to arrive. All staff are CPR and First Aid certified.

Camp Barrett has a full-time psychologist, Dr. Stephenson, plus a full-time intern. Camp Barrett does not have an on-site psychiatrist. Instead, there is a room with a video screen where wards can talk with the psychiatrist over the television screen. Those that need to see the psychiatrist meet via conference once a month. The conferences are private with the probation officer sitting outside watching the minor through the window for safety. The psychiatrist then directs the nurse as to any medication changes/deletions/additions. Wards leaving Camp Barrett receive an exit package with instructions on where to go in the community to receive continued treatment and also a one-month supply of all medication they are currently taking to hold them over until they can find a new treatment provider in the community. A psychologist is on staff four days a week providing mental health counseling to wards who need/want it.

One major improvement in the last year has been the management of medication. Medical staff at Camp Barrett have updated their system to better account for holidays, weekends and other missed delivery days to ensure a steady flow of medication to the boys at camp. Another improvement in the works is switching all medical files from paper to electronic files.

Food Service

Food is provided by the Sheriff's Department and is prepared at East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility. Boys are allowed to make suggestions about foods they like and dislike, and menus are constantly revamped to meet their concerns. For example, in December new items and more calories were added to the menu. At lunch, the boys have the option of having a peanut butter sandwich in addition to their meal. They also have the option of cold cereal for breakfast, while carrot salad was removed because it was not being consumed. Additionally, the Sheriff's Department added fruit cups and granola bars to after-dinner snacks to provide more variety to the boys. Food comes in bulk servings allowing the boys in the culinary program more opportunity for food preparation and learning kitchen skills. Knives and other kitchen utensils are locked up and otherwise bolted down to the table so as not to be stolen or used as weapons on other wards. Kitchen staff has cut back 5 positions, with the Sheriff handling kitchen responsibilities, allowing the Probation Department to use these dollars for other needs around the camp.

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A dietitian comes out to Camp Barrett once a month to monitor food delivery and conduct inspections. The menu rotates on a four-week cycle and is updated three to four times each year.

All wards eat their meals cafeteria style and are allowed to share food with one another. Bullying does not seem to be a problem. The wards are allowed to talk during meals unless they are in trouble and are having a "quiet meal."

Camp Barrett is not equipped to handle most special diets. If a youth requires a special diet, they are sent back to Juvenile Hall. Camp Barrett can make accommodations for Ramadan and accommodate a liquid diet for a ward for a couple of days if needed, but all other special dietary needs are handled elsewhere.

Clothing and Personal Hygiene

The wards shower daily and are responsible for their own laundry. Clothes are washed and stacked in large cupboards with more than enough clothing for each youth. The wards also get sweaters and jackets to wear in the winter if it gets cold.

Bedding and Linens

All minors are provided with proper bedding and linens that are contracted out to be washed on a regular basis.

Transition Plan

As discussed above under programming, the Work Readiness Program allocates one full-time staff to working with wards while in Camp Barrett and then three days a week in the community assisting wards in looking for jobs, getting into school and finding housing.

Medical staff also sends a ward's information down to Juvenile Hall medical staff upon release to ensure the State is properly notified of the ward's status and automatically qualified for Medi-Cal until he's 21 as is now required by California law.

Interviews with Wards

Commissioner Andrew Haden conducted two individual interviews. Director Jim Seal picked one of the interviewees; the other was selected randomly by Haden from a group departing breakfast.

Both wards explained that they liked their teachers and most of the staff. They also felt that they had really benefited from the ROP programs and the rigorous schedule of daily life in Camp. They both seemed proud of things they had accomplished, but were worried about returning to their neighborhoods. Both wards were planning on being very involved in childcare upon release, one with his own children, the other with his brothers and sisters.

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